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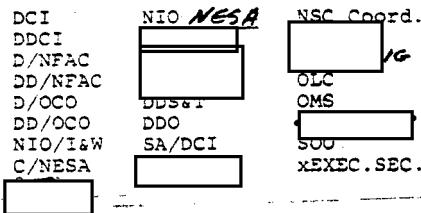
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AFP: TEHRAN SOURCES SAY 300 AMERICANS INVOLVED IN RESCUE ATTEMPT

NC251425 PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH 1420 GMT 25 APR 80

(TEXT) TEHRAN, APRIL 25 (AFP)--SOME MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COMMANDO UNIT SENT INTO IRAN LAST NIGHT ARE STILL IN THE TABAS REGION, SOURCES CLOSE TO AYATOLLAH RUMOLLAH KHOMEINI SAID HERE TODAY.

THE SOURCES SAID THAT A TOTAL OF 300 AMERICANS WERE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION.

FIVE CHINOOK HELICOPTERS AND TWO C-130 TRANSPORT PLANES TOOK PART IN THE RAID, THE SOURCES SAID. A JEEP AND A MOTORCYCLE WERE FOUND IN ONE OF THE TWO AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IN THE COLLISION.

25 APR 1438Z HLR/CAJ *****